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AIRBAG PRODUCTS WITH NONLINEAR TEAR SEAMS

ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

A novel cover for a safety restraint device is disclosed. The cover is well-adapted for use in vehicles with modular airbag components. The novel cover configuration of the present invention effectively hides any evidence of the seam through which the airbag deploys, thereby improving the appearance and tamper-resistance of the airbag. The cover includes a seam with a nonlinear portion that impedes folding or bending of the outer layer in conformance with the seam. The nonlinear portion of the seam may include bends and linear segments in a variety of shapes and sizes, in homogeneous or heterogeneous arrangements, as dictated by the design parameters of the airbag and the manufacturing processes used to make the cover. The cover module of the present invention may be used with an outer layer of material designed to conceal the seam. With such a configuration, the nonlinear portion of the seam may keep the outer layer from form fitting to the seam so that no visible indentation over the seam will be shown. Alternatively, the module may be made with a single-shot material, exclusive of any outer layer. An exposed surface of the airbag module may then be configured as a cosmetic surface, with the seam formed on the opposite side of the cosmetic surface. The nonlinear seam then reduces material deformation and obscures translucency to ensure that the cosmetic surface appears even and relatively flat, even without the use of a styling line.

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